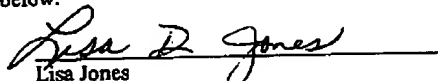


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being facsimile transmitted to the attention of Examiner Prebilic, Examiner, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, at telephone number (703) 746-3361 on the date indicated below.

Date: 12/9/02


Lisa Jones

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DEC 09 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

In re patent application

Applicant: Shlomo Gabbay

Art Unit: 3738

Serial No.: 09/973,609

Examiner: P. Prebilic

Filed: October 9, 2001

Title: IMPLANTATION SYSTEM FOR IMPLANTATION OF A HEART
VALVE PROSTHESIS



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to a telephone interview with the Examiner on December 4, 2002, in which the Examiner issued a restriction requirement, prior to examination of the above-identified patent application, kindly amend the subject patent application as set forth herein.

A clean set of all pending claims, as amended herein, begins on the following page and a marked up version to show changes made is found at pages 11-17.